

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JERUSALEM

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE PETITIONERS
RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S.

*Under a new law that took effect in December 1997 (Section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act), every applicant for a family-based immigrant visa must have a legally enforceable “Affidavit of Support” (Form I-864) filed on his/her behalf by one or more sponsors. The U.S. citizen or permanent resident who has petitioned for the immigrant **must be a sponsor**. As the petitioner it is important for you to be aware that you must be “**domiciled in the United States**” before you can qualify as a sponsor.*

*If you have been living abroad without maintaining a “**domicile**” or “**permanent residence**” in the U.S., you will need to take certain steps to make the U.S. your new principal residence before your family member presents his/her application for an immigrant visa. The consular officer needs to see a convincing combination of several of the following types of action as proof that you have in fact established your domicile in the United States:*

- *Locating a place to live in the U.S.;*
- *Setting up a bank account in the U.S., transferring funds there, or making investments there;*
- *Seeking employment in the U.S.;*
- *Registering children in U.S. schools;*
- *Applying for a driver’s license and/or social security number in the U.S.;*
- *Registering to vote and/or voting in local, state or federal elections in the U.S.;*
- *Making specific arrangements to relinquish your residence abroad (such as preparing to leave your job, take children out of school, close bank accounts, sell property, etc...).*

For additional information, please contact the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service in the U.S. or the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas.